

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:753

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003

STORAGE OF SUGAR

DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;RAM JEEVAN SINGH;RAM VILAS PASWAN

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune has discovered that the quality of sugar when kept in plastic bags for longer period deteriorates at a faster rate which are harmful for human beings;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the marketing of sugar in plastic bags by the sugar factories in the country which often remain in storage in the sugar factories and again with retailers before these are sold to the consumers; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to solve this problem?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI S L MAHARIA)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): According to National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune, a scientific result indicates that when a sugar group is chemically attached to a polymer molecule, such as polystyrene, the said polymer undergoes faster bio-degradation in the environment. The products of bio-degradation are small organic residues and carbon dioxide. These are not harmful. The NCL further states that the degradation of plastics will not occur if the plastic is only in physical contact with the sugar. Consequently, sugar packed in plastic bags is safe and indefinitely stable.